

Redstone Rocket

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Cleaning homes of hazardous waste

Residents invited to turn in
old household products

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Furniture polishes, oven cleaners, used motor oil and other household hazardous wastes tend to collect in homes and garages. And there's a right way and a wrong way to dispose of them.

Redstone officials want to help housing area residents get rid of these materials properly without resorting to unsafe methods such as putting the wastes in the trash. A Hazardous Waste Turn-in for post residents is scheduled Nov. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon in front of the Self Help Store, building 3500, at the corner of Vincent and Gray roads.

"Every home on Redstone Arsenal has hazardous products that need to be disposed of safely," environmental engineer Dan Seaver of the Environmental Management Division in the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works said. "This includes old cleaners, waxes, paint, garden poisons, automotive fluids and other hazardous chemicals. These items can be hazardous to the environment and to animals and families when you



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PILING UP— Acceptable categories for turn-in include paint and paint related products, automotive products, lawn and garden products, household cleaners and other miscellaneous items.

stockpile them or abandon them or dispose of them improperly.

"We just want to offer a way

to get rid of these things without throwing them in the garbage. Another end result of this turn-in will be a reduction

of potential injuries to waste handling people."

The drop-off is free of charge. Acceptable categories for turn-in include paint and paint related products, automotive products, lawn and garden products, household cleaners and other miscellaneous items. "We can't accept explosives or radioactive or biological type waste," Seaver said.

For packaging, residents should try to bring the products in their original container. If these containers are damaged, residents are asked to put them in a box that has been lined with two garbage bags or in a container with a lid. If the household wastes are leaking, put the box or container in cat litter, sawdust or other similar absorbent materials.

"We have coordinated this effort with the City of Huntsville," Seaver said. The city, which collects garbage on post, will handle the disposal.

"Redstone residents are encouraged to help reduce the toxicity of the community's waste stream by removing as many of these hazardous wastes as possible," Seaver said. "The end result will also be a reduction in potential injuries to waste handling personnel; lessening the risks of

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Securing property closes door on would-be thieves

Crime prevention
a valuable key

By DAN O'BOYLE

For the Rocket

Although October's Security Awareness Month officially ends on Halloween, Redstone Arsenal's residents and work force are reminded that not being tricked will keep wrongdoers from getting a treat.

"A lot of what we see in the Provost Marshal's Office is that when folks report lost, stolen or missing property, unfortunately in a majority of those instances the reported property has not been properly secured," Lt. Col. Brad Scofield, provost marshal, said. "When property is left on top of a desk, in a desk drawer in an unlocked or open office, or a vehicle with windows down and doors unlocked — both on and off

of the installation — it creates a crime-conducive condition for a thief or a bad guy."

Preventing those opportunities from existing is the key to crime prevention.

"Typically what we see when badges are lost or stolen, or when purses, wallets or other personal property, for example, are lost or stolen, a lack of proper security is the reason," Scofield said. "Out here on the installation, we have what we call a trusted-agent situation. That is, everybody that is here is supposed to be here, although we do have a lot of visitors and they are affiliated with the Department of the Army or federal organization, so they are more trustworthy than the average Joe. Nonetheless, unfortunately, there are some folks who are not completely honest. And, occasionally, things such as lawnmowers and bicycles grow legs and walk away."

Again, Redstone's top cop says,

removal of temptation is key.

"Maybe somebody who would never even think about doing something like that sees a lucrative item, they could be tempted to take that item," Scofield said. "It's really pretty simple: don't open yourself up to becoming a victim by leaving things lying around, especially in an office environment. We get a lot of cases where a laptop computer, a wallet, a purse, change out of a drawer comes up missing. If an item is not locked up, it's not properly secured."

Quite often, people get a false sense of security while on the Arsenal, but common sense and attention to proper security are still advisable.

"Secure your valuables, so they don't grow legs and walk away," Scofield said. "Very rarely do we have a case on the installation where somebody actually breaks in, taking something that's not theirs."

Silent auction open for bids to benefit charity drive

Variety of products available online

By ERIKA READUS
For the Rocket

If you are in the market for a football autographed by hall-of-fame receiver John Stallworth or a teddy bear dressed like a biker that sings "Born to be Wild," these are among the items up for bid.

Just log on to the Combined Federal Campaign silent auction.

Running through Nov. 5, the online auction has been organized to support needy citizens locally, nationally and internationally.

"We have had such a great response from the community and so many wonderful items have been donated," Maria Clark, auction chairman, said. "It's a great feeling to know that people of the Tennessee Valley care so much about helping others."

Categories of available products include patriotic items, handmade items, sports memorabilia, clothing, services and more. Among the items in the sports memorabilia section is an autographed Seattle Seahawks football signed by Walter Jones, Pro Bowl left tackle.

Handmade items include a shaker box, afghan and a St. Jude quilt.

In the auction's services section, bidders have the opportunity to submit the



Photo by Erika Readus

AUCTION KICKOFF— Combined Federal Campaign coordinator Donna Johnson and CFC auction chairman Maria Clark look at a football signed by hall-of-fame receiver John Stallworth which is among the many items up for bid.

winning bid and dine with post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury and his wife, Becky, in Quarters One.

All online auction items have been donated, and proceeds will go to CFC, with winning bidders filling out pledge cards to designate locations for donations.

The auction can be found at <http://www.jtwconsulting.com/cfcauction/>. For more information, call Clark at 313-7620.

■ Hatch Act restricts political activities

Politics

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with bumper sticker in a government lot or garage. An employee may also park the car with bumper sticker in a private lot or garage for which the employee receives a subsidy from his or her agency.

Question: Can I help organize a political fund-raiser?

Answer: Yes. An employee is allowed to organize a fund-raiser, including supplying names for the invitation list, as long as he or she does not personally solicit, accept or receive contributions.

Question: Can my name appear on invitations to a political fund-raiser as a sponsor or point of contact?

Answer: No. An employee's name may not be shown on an invitation to such a fund-raiser as a sponsor or point of contact.

Question: Can I speak at a political fund-raiser?

Answer: Yes. An employee is allowed to give a speech or keynote address at a political fund-raiser, as long as he or she is not on duty, and the employee does not solicit political contributions.

Question: If I'm going to speak at a political fund-raiser, what information about me can be printed on the invitations?

Answer: An employee's name can be shown as a guest speaker. However, the reference should not in any way suggest that the employee solicits or encourages contributions. Invitations to the fund-raiser

er may not include the employee's official title, although an employee who is ordinarily addressed with a general term of address such as "The Honorable" may use, or permit the use of, that term of address on the invitation.

Question: Can I attend a state or national party convention? If so, in what capacity?

Answer: Yes. A federal employee may serve as a delegate, alternate or proxy to a state or national party convention.

Question: If I run as a candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election, does the Hatch Act allow me to ask for and accept political contributions?

Answer: An employee who is a candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election is not barred by the Hatch Act from soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions for his or her own campaign.

Question: May I distribute brochures for a political party to people arriving at a polling place on Election Day?

Answer: Yes. An employee may stand outside a polling place on Election Day and hand out brochures on behalf of a partisan political candidate or political party. (Reminder: Local ordinances frequently specify required distances from polling places.)

Answers to other questions about allowable political activity by federal employees can also be found in Hatch Act regulations in Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Household hazardous waste tends to collect

Waste

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injuries to fire and rescue personnel due to improper storage of hazardous wastes in homes; decreasing air, ground and water pollution as well as the contamination of our sewage treatment plant and storm drains."

The turn-in is a first for Redstone but has been conducted on other installations in the U.S. "If it's successful, we'll do it periodically in the future, perhaps quarterly," Seaver said.

All members of the Redstone housing area are invited to participate in this residential turn-in. The effort is being conducted by members of the hazardous waste branch in the environmental management division. For more information, call Seaver at 876-6123.

"The most important thing is just to keep hazardous materials from going to a landfill and leaking into the groundwater where it could affect human health," Terry Hazle, chief of the environmental management division, said.

Craig Northridge, chief of the compliance branch in the division, suggested the

turn-in to garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin.

"We want to give people in housing the opportunity to be more environmentally friendly with disposal of their chemicals," Northridge said. "It's before fall cleanup time. And if it goes well, we'll do it again in the spring."

Residents can bring the following items to the turn-in:

- Paint and paint related products – oil or water-based paints, mineral spirits, turpentine and thinners, furniture strippers, paint removers, stains and aerosols.

- Automotive products – transmission fluid, brake fluid, anti-freeze, car batteries and used motor oil.

- Lawn and garden poisons – weed killers, liquids, powders, sprays, soaps; herbicides, pesticides and fungicides; rodent poisons, roach and flea powder.

- Household cleaners – oven cleaners, toilet cleaners, disinfectants, drain cleaners, rug and upholstery cleaners, floor and furniture polishes, ammonia or bleach-based products.

- Miscellaneous – acids, pool chemicals, photographic chemicals, solvents and household batteries.